

**Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Jonathan Greenert**

Remarks at Malaysia Armed Forces Staff College

11 February 2014

Adm. Greenert: Thank you. I guess we're [inaudible] and you all can hear me well enough.

Lamar, thanks so much, and enjoy your tour of Riley tomorrow. Enjoy your tour.

It's an honor and a pleasure to be here today to talk to you. I have some prepared remarks and I'll talk to this and kind of lay out my thoughts on maritime operations, coalition operations, as we go into the future. Although this sounds very Navy-like maybe, very maritime-like, it's really a joint effort that I'm talking about, and I think you'll see that.

Most importantly, whenever I'm done with my prepared remarks I thought we'd talk about anything of interest that crosses your mind, nationally and internationally.

I'd say that's me in a happy time. [Laughter]. That's not usually me in Washington, DC in the Pentagon but it is me today because I'm not in Washington, DC. I'm in a happy place today, very much.

Listen, our coalition operations. We have enduring presence. We've been here. We, the U.S. Navy in particular, in the Asia Pacific region now for over six decades, 60 years we've been here.

Put up the first slide, please.

And we have, on the average, about 50 ships here in the Asia Pacific region. There's a lot of talk in the U.S. about rebalancing and increasing dramatically presence out here, but for the last two decades we've had about 100 of our ships, virus types, out around the world in any given day on operation. And 50, over half, have been here in the Asia Pacific region. So it's an important part of this. The rebalance that we talk about is across our government. It's not just maritime, it's not Army or Navy or Air Force or Marine Corps, it is across the government. It's going to be built, the success of our rebalance in the Asia Pacific really will be built on relationships and understanding. It's not going to be ships and aircraft that are going to make a difference. It's not going to be the Army, it's not going to be the Air Force shift.

The Secretary of Defense was here in August and he said, and I quote, "Malaysia's been a good friend to the United States," and it has been. This is a very important relationship to me personally because I'm a very good friend of your Navy Chief as someone that I admire and respect, but also it's important for the region. Malaysia's a very key part of that. Our President in 1963 said Malaysia, there's a special bond that we have between our countries. Since its

founding, in that time frame. SO in reality strong diplomacy, economy, security regulations are going to make a difference out there.

Now a common vision that all of our nations have, and as I understand it we're represented by 31 nations here. Prosperity and security collectively, if we can achieve that, the economies will flourish and that's what we're after.

Maritime nations have those common interests. They have to. Maritime security cannot be done alone. We can't do it, although we have a fairly large Navy, we have pretty much a world class Navy. We can't do it alone around the world. Our future, your future, coalition operations in order to have security around the world. And allow us to address what all of us view are common problems in the world out there today. We don't have the authority, we don't have the access to all the sites in the world where there are problems. Piracy, smuggling, counter-terrorism operations, et cetera. It reflects also the fiscal realities of today. We can't have a Navy the size of hundreds and hundreds of ships. It just doesn't exist.

Our approach, and I would suggest a key to great, proper coalition operations, are three key areas. Number one are partnerships, and that's building the relationships and increasing the understanding through what I call intellectual capabilities. Intellectual capacity. The friendships that you develop in this course today, the friendships that we try to nurture among international navies, international militaries and our forces are what are going to be the foundation to the security of the future. The people that you meet today, the business cards that you exchange, the email addresses that you exchange and that you pass back and forth, that you all develop will be the leaders of the future and are going to make a difference and are going to be a difference in the right thing being done out there in the future.

You're the best and brightest in this region that we have, and that's what we need, for you to get together and nurture those partnerships.

Personnel exchanges, for example, attendant at international defense colleges, are what's going to make the difference. We have one Malaysian student in our Naval War College, and we typically have at least one Malaysian student at our Naval War College. We have a Malaysian student at our Naval Academy -- Excuse me, we have two at our Naval Academy, Malaysian students. We have 58 international midshipmen in a class of about a thousand. So we take almost one percent of our class is international. Relationships are going to allow them rapid coordination to take place.

I tell the story, when I was a two star admiral and I was at Pacific Fleet Headquarters in Hawaii, the great tsunami of 2004 occurred. Some of you may remember that. Great damage to Indonesia, especially the Aceh region. We needed to get airlift into Banda Aceh to get relief going and we couldn't get landing rights through the diplomatic channels. It was broken down through bureaucracy. One phone call between the Pacific Commander to the Chief of the Malaysian Defense Force. Two guys that were together in the course like this in the past, and the trust and confidence they built there made a difference. We got landing rights, things started moving, they started getting aid.

There are many examples like that, but partnerships will be a big key.

Number two, multilateral cooperation. Next slide, please.

Seven hundred training events, different events we have out here in the Asia Pacific region, 170 exercises every year. That's building a foundation of trust and confidence, but it's also building a practice. So that when we have to we can get together and get it done right. We can learn from each other. We don't have all the great ideas. Malaysia has been a valuable participant in exercises and operations for decades out there.

RIMPAC '14 our rim of the Pacific exercise. We'll have over 24 nations coming together. Your Air Force in Malaysia and your Navy will also be participants. So will the Army.

CARAT, which is Cooperation Afloat, Readiness and Training in June of '14, that was the 20th anniversary of our relationship here and we had our new Littoral Combat Ship operating in cooperation [inaudible].

The Western Pacific Naval Symposium. The ASEAN Minister of Defense meeting that we had. The maritime security exercise that followed it. All part of that. Counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. Task Force 151. Operations in the Strait of Malacca. Those exercises, that multilateral training allows us when the time comes, like Operation Tomadachi where we had the earthquake and the tsunami up in Japan; where we had Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines. This is where we come together, the hearts of the event where it matters. If you don't have the training to do that, you aren't getting those exercises done, then it makes it complicated and time is so important. So multilateral cooperation is extremely important.

The last thing, maintain and build presence in the region. We support the region with rotational and non-rotational forces. We'll be building that up in the future. As I said today, what works for the future is to get about 60 ships out here. That's going to be the majority of our increase as we build our Navy up and deploy out there in the future, while bringing to the Western Pacific our newest equipment, the P-8 aircraft which is a maritime patrol aircraft, a jet aircraft, especially the 737 which has new equipment, better maritime surveillance, better ASW. It's deployed out here and it's out here for the first time, and our first deployment to this region.

Our Littoral Combat Ship, the Freedom, who was in Singapore recently on an eight month deployment will be followed by another Littoral Combat Ship coming out, the Fort Worth. That will follow with more and more deployments until we eventually station four here in Singapore, so that will be another investment that we have in the region.

Our Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35, very stealthy, very capable, really a quantum leap in capability from previous [inaudible] deployment out here to the Asia Pacific region.

Then lastly, our newest destroyer called the Zumwalt Class will be also out here.

So the point is, we look at the Asia Pacific region as the place where we need to have, where maritime security is most important, for all the economies, for your economy and our economy, and that's where we're going to invest first.

I'm of the opinion that all will be maritime domain awareness -- the ability for us to share information.

Step one, we've got to get by the road blocks and the bureaucracy that preclude us from sharing that information. We need to find the common denominator, not always classified information. What is the lowest denominator, the unclassified means to share information so we can again get that practicing done and get it done right.

As navies we have an obligation in the maritime realm to ensure that the highest standards of behavior on the high seas, the common protocols, and that we're safe and we have security out there. We need to build on the existing tools and the initiatives that are out there today to make sure that we're out there trying to achieve that.

We have obviously the international rules of the road. They've existed for years and years. All of our navies have signed up to it. They're there to prevent collisions at sea, and they're also there to prevent misinterpretation, miscalculation, and that can lead to an incident at sea and keep that from spiraling out into something we don't want, perhaps conflict. So we need to preclude that.

Use the existing rules that we have today. Looking at conduct for unexpected exchanges at sea, encounters at sea. To adopt that and bring that aboard so that again we have common protocols for operations in the seas out here, the South China Sea, the East China Sea, all around the oceans in this area.

We're going to develop this at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium here in April. We're going to get all of the signatories, all the participants to kind of stack hands and say this is how we're going to interact with each other. It's those common ways of communication, common ways of operating, common ways of protocol and engagement out there on the seas of responsible nations, an important part. It's an example of regional [inaudible] sharing that we need in the future.

Another way to go ahead and enhance this maritime security and our best practice is the Changi Command and Control Center down in Singapore where all the nations here in the Western Pacific and beyond agree to share information on what kind of contact they've seen out at sea, anything suspicious, bring it together and provide a common operational picture so that we know what's normal out there today so that we can determine what's abnormal. You know it's normal when something starts developing, you can see what the difference is. If you don't have that, you're starting with confusing situations and you've got to get all that cleared up. That takes time, time is important and time is critical when you're trying to solve a problem and get together with counter-piracy, counter-terrorism, things of that nature.

Most importantly, these tools that I'm talking about -- the command and control center, the new communication sites, the ability to share -- they've got to be developed multilaterally. We've got to find a way to get to the common denominator, find a way to exercise together.

The result of that will be obviously communication and coordination that we can share. How can we get started right off the bat whenever something happens -- either a typhoon, a volcano, a tsunami or something like that. Our Navy has to get together. Cut out the misunderstandings and if we end up with [inaudible] at sea and we can't even just get started, and we need to apply equally all the nations, all the navies that join together in that regard.

So maritime domain awareness. We talk about it a lot. It's the key area to focus cooperation and data sharing. [Inaudible] a common repository that we can then distribute out to all the navies and all the joint sites is important. To lay down the common foundation so we can get started. That will build the trust, that will give us the cooperation that we'll need for those areas that we need to get together on.

So it's important that we work with the regional partners, with our neighbors, have an effective organization so we can resolve issues like the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, like the International [inaudible] Symposium where we come together as necessary and as appropriate.

In the end it's going to be people. It's going to be you all, your partners here, your new partners, your joint partners as you work to move ahead in the future. Courses like this where it's a great opportunity to further the security initiatives that we need in the future. We've got to learn from each other and highlight the course, determine our experiences, and talk things out in a collaborative manner here, and kind of leave the political baggage at home.

Share what you learn when you return to your service. Tell them what you found out here. Because everybody's got a different perspective and everybody has got probably a pretty good point as we look out there in the future.

Partnerships will be increasingly vital. In fact it's the coalitions and partnerships that will get things done in the future. A classic case is the removal of chemical weapons from Syria today. There are a host of nations from Denmark to Sweden, Norway, China, Russia, the United States, Spain, Italy, all providing the security, all providing the cooperation to get together and solve this common problem using the maritime domain to remove those weapons and get them over [inaudible]. Just an example. It doesn't always have to be a natural disaster, but we're used to the natural disaster. But these are examples we can build on and I think we need to find the principles. I hope you find them in this course and work through that.

Thanks for your time.

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